

Remington's
Frontier
Sketches



BY

Frederic Remington

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Parker More Hooper.
Harvard College, November 1898.

Remington's Frontier Sketches



BY

Frederic Remington

PUBLISHERS :

THE WERNER COMPANY

CHICAGO

AKRON, O.

NEW YORK

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THE WERNER COMPANY

Frontier Sketches





CONTENTS



TWENTY-FIVE TO ONE

PURSUING GERONIMO

MEETING BETWEEN THE LINES

"God Almighty made me an Indian and not an Agency Indian."

INDIAN VILLAGE ROUTED

INDIAN WINTER ENCAMPMENT ON STAKED PLAINS

MOUNTING INFANTRY ON CAPTURED PONIES

SIOUX WARRIORS

THE LAME DEER FIGHT

HUNTING HOSTILE CAMP

SURRENDER OF CHIEF JOSEPH

"From where the sun now stands I fight no more against the White Man."

FIGHTING OVER THE CAPTURED HERD

SOLDIERS OPENING THEIR OWN VEINS FOR WANT OF WATER

ATTACKING THE INDIAN CHIEF, "CRAZY HORSE"

PURSUING THE INDIANS

INDIANS FIRING THE PRAIRIES



INTRODUCTION



RADITION and history alike are silent on the origin of the American Indian. The subject is one that has engaged the attention of the student to no substantial purpose. The secret, whatever it may be, is locked in the voiceless years of long ago, and there is no promise of a solution. But the hope is never quite dispelled that an answer to the riddle may yet be found; that, as the discovery of the Rosetta Stone unraveled the mysteries hidden in the hieroglyphic writings of ancient Egypt; or as the genius of Sir Henry Rawlinson robbed the cliff at Behistun of its secrets and made plain the inscriptions upon the monuments and clay tablets stored beneath the ruins of ancient Nineveh; so some investigator may yet be rewarded with an inspiration which shall disclose to him the lost key with which to free the enigma presented by the American Indian.

Whatever may be the merits of the case, and however strongly we may advocate the survival of the fittest, there is a romantic sadness in the fate of the red man that excites our sympathy; traits in his character that win admiration; a poetic justice in his cause that appeals to us. Instinctively we find ourselves wishing that his fate had been less hard and inexorable.

When we remember that four hundred years ago the Indian was in undisputed possession of this continent; that from ocean to ocean it was one vast game preserve kept for his lordly pleasure, wherein he roamed at will; when we recall how he has been displaced, slowly at first, then more rapidly, and finally fairly swept from the dominion of his fore-fathers by the irresistible force of advancing civilization, we cannot wonder that he at length made a last desperate stand, resolved to preserve from the devouring greed of the spoiler some portion of his inheritance. The theatre selected for the final scene in the tragedy, by necessity rather than choice, was one worthy the occasion. It embraced the great plains of the boundless West, from the cactus-grown prairies of Texas to the sage brush of the Red River country, including the mountain fastnesses of the Rockies. Here in the two decades following the Civil War it was fought out with the result the same as always. The struggle was long and desperate. No quarter was given. Awful acts of inhuman cruelty were repeated again and again. Prodigies of valor were performed. Enormous amounts of treasure were expended, while there is no measure of the terrible suffering entailed.

And so the Indian, to all intents and purposes, has passed from the stage. Not one in a hundred of those living to-day has ever seen him, or ever can. He came from out the darkness of the unlit past, and has disappeared like mist before the morning sun.

Fortunately, but no thanks to him, he has left his likeness with us in a hundred different forms

The most striking of all, the truest to life, are found in the vivid pictures of that heaven-born artist, Frederick Remington, presented in this book.

His are no fancy sketches. They deal with subjects which he has studied close at hand, in the wigwam, on the plains, in the wild arroyos.

When the turbulent soul of the last wild Indian shall have passed to the Great Spirit, Remington's admirable pictures will abide, preserving for all time his unique likeness in a setting true to nature and worthy of the subject.

GEO. S. ROWE.





TWENTY-FIVE TO ONE







MEETING BETWEEN THE LINES

"God Almighty made me an Indian and not an Agency Indian."





INDIAN VILLAGE ROUTED





INDIAN WINTER ENCAMPMENT ON STAKED PLAINS





MOUNTING INFANTRY ON CAPTURED PONIES





SIoux WARRIORS





THE LAMB EGG HUNT





HUNTING HOSTILE CAMP





SURRENDER OF CHIEF JOSEPH

"From where the sun now stands I fight no more against the White Man."

STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF THE
JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE AGES





FIGHTING OVER THE CAPTURED HERD

FIGHTING OVER THE CAPTURED TOWN





SOLDIERS OPENING THEIR OWN VEINS FOR WANT OF WATER



ATTACKING THE INDIAN CHIEF, "CRAZY HORSE"







PURSUING THE INDIANS

FORGIVING THE INLAW



INDIANS FIRING THE PRAIRIES



INDIANS FIRING THE PRAIRIES



